

**Regional Service Council Minutes
Region # 9**

Meeting Date: 1.25.08

Meeting Location: Hendricks County Dept. of Child Services
6781 E US Hwy. 36, Avon, IN 46123

Council Members Present:

Sally Berish -Commissioner, Boone County Circuit Court, Kandi Killin - Boone County, Director, GAL/CASA , Steve Vaughn - Director, Montgomery County DCS, Tim Miller - Director, Morgan County DCS, Barbara South - Director, Putnam County DCS, and Char Burkett-Sims - DCS , Region 9 Regional Manager

Guests Present:

Andrea Goodwin - Director, Hendricks County DCS, Kamilla Aeschliman – Director, Boone County DCS, David Eilar - Wernle Children's Home, Kayla Gentry - Montgomery County Youth Services Bureau, Lisa Plewa - Children's Bureau and Community Partners for Child Safety, Lisa Peck - Children's Bureau, Nicole Campbell - Community Partners for Child Safety, Michelle Ruth - Community Partners for Child Safety, Carmen Young - Resource Residential Facility, Dan Turner - Options Treatment Center

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 1:30 PM

Practice Reform Indicators:

Placement Type Average for Region 9 for October '07 - December '07 is as follows:

Own Home: 35.05%
Relative: 14.91%
Foster Care: 34.07 %
Residential: 8.79 %

The goal for DCS in this area is to increase the safety of the home to allow the child to remain in the home. Where this is not possible, the goal is to place the child with a relative with whom the child is familiar. Practice Reform Indicators show a decline in Own Home and Relative placements.

Length of Stay in Out of Home Care:

The goal of this indicator is to reduce the time a child is placed out of home. The data for this indicator is currently measured by utilizing the median placement time in care. The measurement will be changing to actually look at the time in care by cohorts.

Absence of Repeat Maltreatment:

The average rate for Region 9 for the Absence of Maltreatment for the period of October '07 – December '07 is 84.06%. The Region 9 target for this measure is 90% over a 13 month period.

Child Welfare Services Account for 2008:

The total 2008 allocations for the Child Welfare Services Account for Region 9 is \$207,703.00. The funds from this account can be used only for services to prevent child abuse or neglect that can be used to help develop or support current prevention services. It was decided that we start planning by "ear marking" ways to utilize the funds and how to foster these prevention services. A consensus of the members in attendance was to explore the cost of expanding the Community Partners for Child Safety Program as the priority. If there was additional funding available, other options would be considered.

IV-B Funding Proposals:**Putnam County –**

Families United is no longer serving Putnam County. Barb South has requested to transfer \$25,266.00 to Boone County Mental Health Association for the year 2008.

All members in attendance approved the request but there was not a quorum at this meeting. Barb will seek approval from 2 other council members. Approval is pending the receipt of additional votes and will bring a formal report to the next meeting.

Hendricks County –

Preventative Aftercare is no longer serving Hendricks County at this time. Andrea Goodwin has requested to transfer \$62,523.00 from Preventative Aftercare to Family Works, Inc. It was decided that Andrea will contact Boone County Mental Health Association in order to give them the financial opportunity and also inquire if they have the capacity to serve Hendricks County. This will not affect the funding for Family Works as there is plenty of funding available for their services.

The official decision was postponed until Andrea gathers the information. She will bring this information back to the table at the next council meeting.

Community Partners for Child Safety:

Lisa Plewa from Children's Bureau discussed the ongoing success of Community Partners for Child Safety. They are still in need of more staff due to the overwhelming amount of referrals they are receiving; however, they are in need of more funding in order to hire additional staff. Although they put a hold on marketing, they are still receiving referrals by word of mouth, the community, and self referrals. They have 20-25 cases per staff at this time with some staff working in more than one county. In 2007 they had 407 referrals. Other areas of CPCS expansion could include preventative services such as parenting classes, parent education programs, mentoring programs, and budgeting classes. A proposal for the expansion will be presented at the next Regional Services Council Meeting.

DCS/Colts Books for Youth:

DCS and the Colts have developed partnership in collecting books for youth in foster care. The goal is for each child that is in foster care to receive 25 books each, delivered in a book bag with the DCS/Colts Logo. Boone County Library as well as the Avon and Plainfield Barnes and Noble stores have already donated over 2000 books and this is without collection activity. We need about 3000 more books for Region 9 to reach our goal. The initiative is for kids in foster care to have something meaningful of their very own and that they can keep. The Regional Services Council was asked and agreed to support this endeavor.

Some ideas that were discussed; kick off events, a celebration for foster youth with Colts players coming to meet them, talking to book publishers about donations, and contests between schools on how many books they collect. We also have some boxes and logo stickers that can be used as drop off boxes. These books can be new or very gently used. Another idea that was mentioned was to make the books more personal by getting stickers to put on the inside of each book "This Book Belongs To_____". The council also discussed getting volunteers to sort the books for the specific age groups. Some ideas on were the possibility to contact youth groups such as Girl Scouts, 4-H, church youth programs that perform community services for assistance. The local DCS office Directors have been designated to be the official contact source to pull together ideas and bring back the information to the next meeting.

Resource Residential Care Facility:

Carmen Young announced that they now have the Medicaid Placement Option.

Wernle Children's Home:

David Eilar gave an update on their new mastery/strength based program. This is so far working successfully with a lot more successful discharges.

Options Treatment Center:

Options Treatment Center provides residential services to children with a 48 – 85 IQ range. They have a new unit for kids with Autism Spectrum Disorder. There are 10 beds in this unit.

Boone County In-Service:

The In-Service has been cancelled this year but will resume next year in March.

Recommended Reading: Sally Berish recommended a book called "Three Little Words" a memoir by Ashley Rhodes-Courter, who spent nine years of her life in fourteen different foster homes. It was also recommended to be a possible training tool for new worker training.

Meeting Location:

There was discussion to change the meeting location from Hendricks County to Putnam County. It was tentatively decided that we would consider alternating between Hendricks and Putnam each month. It was decided to see how it goes in Putnam County before a final decision is made. The next meeting will be Friday, February 22 in Putnam County with the location to be announced soon. **The time has also changed from 1:30 PM to 9:00 AM.**

Next Meeting Date: 2.22.08

Time: 9:00 PM

Location: TBA

Meeting concluded at 3:07 PM